

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for determining whether a substance is an activator or an inhibitor of an inflammatory process in which a macrophage is in a hyperactivated status due to up-regulated ARL4 comprising: (a) applying the substance to a test system which generates a measurable read-out upon modulation of ARL4 or a biological function of ARL4; and (b) comparing the level of read-out of the test system to a control level, wherein a difference in levels indicates the substance is an inhibitor or an activator of-ARL4; and wherein the inhibitor of ARL4 is a substance which inhibits the inflammatory process~~which is expressed at a higher level in said hyperactivated macrophage indicates the substance which inhibits or reduces said hyperactivated status of said macrophage.~~

Claims 2-7 (cancelled).

7. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the method is performed using a cellular system.
8. (original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the method is performed using a cell-free system.
9. (previously presented) A method for determining an expression level of ARL4 comprising: (a) determining the level of ARL4 in a hyperactivated macrophage; (b) determining the level of ARL4 in a non-hyperactivated macrophage; and (c) comparing the level of ARL4 expressed in step (a) to the level of ARL4 expressed in step (b), wherein a difference in levels indicates a differentially expressedARL4.

10. (original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the hyperactivated macrophage is a mammalian macrophage and the non-hyperactivated macrophage is a mammalian macrophage.
11. (original) The method according to claim 10 wherein the hyperactivated macrophage is a human macrophage and the non-hyperactivated macrophage is a human macrophage.
12. (previously presented) A method for diagnosing or monitoring a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: (a) determining the level of ARL4 in a hyperactivated macrophage; (b) determining the level of ARL4 in a non-hyperactivated macrophage; and (c) comparing the level of ARL4 expressed in step (a) to the level of ARL4 expressed in step (b), wherein a difference in levels indicates a differentially expressed ARL4.
13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.

Claims 14-20 (cancelled).

21. (previously presented) A method for treating a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: administering to a subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of ARL4.
22. (previously presented) A method for treating a chronic inflammatory airway disease comprising: administering to a subject an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of ARL4 according to the method of claim 1.

23. (original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the subject is a mammal.
24. (original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the subject is a human.
25. (original) The method according to claim 21 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.
26. (previously presented) A method for selectively modulating ARL4 in a macrophage, comprising administering a substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of ARL4.
27. (original) The method according to claim 26 wherein the macrophage is involved in a chronic inflammatory airway disease.
28. (original) The method according to claim 27 wherein the chronic inflammatory airway disease is selected from the group consisting of: chronic bronchitis and COPD.
29. (previously presented) A method for selectively modulating ARL4 in a macrophage, comprising administering a substance determined to be an activator or an inhibitor of ARL4 according to the method of claim 1.
30. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the test system comprises incubating GTPS or GDP with ARL4 which has been incubated with the substance, and wherein the test system generates a measurable read-out which indicates GTP γ S binding.
31. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein the test system comprises contacting a macrophage which is in a hyperactivated status with the substance.